

Appl. No. 09/623,018

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1-8, 13-17 and 21 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

1. **Specification**

The Examiner objected to the Specification for including an improper priority claim. Applicant has amended the Specification by removing the priority claim found at paragraph 1, page 1 of the Specification. Removal and reconsideration of the objection is requested.

2. **Claim Objections**

The Examiner has objected to claim 1 for the inclusion of the phrase "is fed". Applicant has cancelled claim 1 thereby obviating the claim objection.

3. **Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-7, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ruottu et al. (U.S. 6,045,688). Without conceding the propriety of the rejection and solely to expedite the issuance of a Notice of Allowance, Applicant has cancelled claims 1-7, 13 and 14 thereby obviating the rejection.

The Examiner has also maintained the rejection of claims 1, 2, 7 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Squires (U.S. 4,032,305). As noted above, Applicant

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has cancelled claims 1-8 and 13-17 thereby rendering the anticipation rejection in view of Squires moot.

Reconsideration and removal of the anticipation rejections is respectfully requested.

4. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 3, 5, 6, 16, 17 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Squires (U.S. 4,032,305). Claim 4 was rejected as unpatentable over Squires in view of Munday (U.S. 2,515,155). And, claim 8 was rejected as unpatentable over Squires in view of Orgorzaly et al. (U.S. 2,689,787). Without conceding the propriety of the rejections and solely to expedite the issuance of a Notice of Allowance, Applicant has cancelled claims 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 16, 17 and 21. Reconsideration and removal of the obviousness rejections is respectfully requested.

5. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 9-12 and 18-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has rewritten these claims in the manner suggested by the Examiner.

Favorable consideration and early allowance of the claims is requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Leonard R. Sveusson (Reg. No. 30,330) at the

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telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicant respectfully petitions for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee of \$110.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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